

NSC BRIEFING

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29 August 1956

SUEZ BACKGROUND: ANNEX B--EGYPTIAN MILITARY DISPOSITIONS

Ground Forces. Estimated strength of the Egyptian Army (including the National Guard) is now 100,000. This force is deployed in three principal areas, as follows:

Sinai Peninsula & Israeli Front	- - 41,800
Canal Zone	- - 12,000
Nile Delta Area	- - 46,200

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A. A selective inventory of Egyptian armament shows the following:

TANKS			MISC ARMORED VEHICLES	ARTILLERY FIELD			ARTILLERY A/T	
L.	M.	H.	650	SP	75mm- 100mm	100mm- 155mm-	SP	57mm- 75mm
40	259	82		11	124	50	151	249
ARTILLERY A/A			ARTILLERY MISC					
20mm- 40mm	75mm- 130mm		Rocket-launchers, recoilless			Mortars 81mm-120mm		
470	36		1,200			288		

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Naval Forces. Principal concentrations are in three areas:

ALEXANDRIA:

3 destroyers
4 patrol escorts
6 fleet minesweepers
7 coastal minesweepers
8 motor torpedo boats

PORT SAID:

2 patrol escorts
7 motor torpedo boats

RED SEA:

1 patrol escort
6 motor torpedo boats

A. One non-operational LST, reportedly loaded with rock and cement, has been moved from Alexandria to Ismaila (on the canal). Three cement-laden barges are also reported to be positioned in the canal.

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Air Forces. A limited attempt has been made to disperse Egypt's combat aircraft, the most notable movement being the shift of 19 IL-28s from the Cairo area to Luxor, 350 miles up the Nile.

A Present estimated deployment of the EAF, other than at Luxor, is in two main areas:

CANAL ZONE:

Abu Suweir -- 15 jet fighters
Fayid -- 30 jet fighters

CAIRO AREA:

Almaza -- 19 jet fighters
6 jet l. bombers
9 piston fighters
8 piston recon.

C/West -- 36 jet fighters
5 jet l. bombers
6 piston m. bombers

Inchas -- 5 jet l. bombers

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B. Egypt has received additional jet aircraft from the Bloc, but they are not yet believed to be in operational units.

C. 16 Vampire and 25 MIG-15 jet fighters, operated by the Syrian Airforce are presently in Egypt, but are probably not yet operational.